

IMN*ature*

The 2007 Summer Gathering of Indiana Master Naturalists

Back in July, Indiana Master Naturalists from across the state gathered at Brown County State Park for walks, talks, fellowship, and more. More than 20 participants arrived Thursday, July 12th, and spent the night at the Abe Martin Lodge. On that Thursday evening, attendees received special insight on local rare species ecology from Jim Eagleman, park interpretive naturalist, then ventured out for a night hike to explore all 5 of their senses in the dark.

Before breakfast the next morning, Jim joined us again for an early birder's hike with rousing discussions on a variety of environmental issues. After breakfast, we took some time to get to know each other, and Indiana Master Naturalists got a chance to give advisory council members their view of the IMN

program. Wil and Sarah Reding, of Rent-A-Rambling-Naturalist, shared their story of retracing John Muir's footsteps along his 1,000 mile walk to the Gulf, which stretched from Indiana to Florida. After lunch, we learned what Indiana's Division of Fish and Wildlife has been up to in their Wildlife Diversity program. The day wrapped up with a road trip throughout the park to explore Brown County's Civilian Conservation Corps history, with Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs' chief of interpretation Vicki Basman.

It was wonderful to meet IMNs from each corner of the state, and I think we all made new friends. We are very much looking forward to the 2008 gathering of master naturalists.

Below: Wil Reding shows off the pack he carried while retracing John Muir's 1000 mile walk to the Gulf.



National ANROSP Conference

I was sent to the Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs (ANROSP) annual conference in Cloquet, Minnesota. With 35 delegates sent from 32 different states, it was an impressive gathering of a variety of Master Naturalist-like programs. Together we gained new insights from each other on partnerships, program evaluation, tools for working with volunteers, and program enhancement. We even had a few opportunities to explore Duluth and woods and waters of the surrounding area, including Lake Superior. I came back full of new resources, and a better understanding of how our Indiana Master Naturalist program compares to similar programs across the country. Many programs look to us for ways to grow, just as we have looked to other programs for ideas. Seeing programs evolve nation-wide that support people excited about their local natural resources is inspiring, and I am glad to see that Indiana is such a strong part of that. To learn more about ANROSP, visit <http://www.nralliance.org/>.

~Sarah Schenk, Stewardship Section Assistant, IN State Parks & Reservoirs.
Sarah helps provide administrative assistance for the IMN program.



Autumn 2007

The newsletter for IMN hosts and for Hoosiers who have completed coursework and volunteer service to be certified as an Indiana Master Naturalist.

Inside:

"IMN helped my résumé"

New opportunities

Preparing to survive the winter

And more...

Not Everyone is on the Same Page



Photo by Sharon Wiggins

“Don’t you just hate squirrels?” the elderly lady standing next to me at the garden center asked. “When I see one in my yard I catch it in

one of those live-traps and drown it in my pool.”

She and I were not on the same page. In fact we weren’t even reading the same book!

So how should we Indiana Master Naturalists respond to a revelation like that? Maybe it’s best to just change the subject. After many years of encouraging folks to save a place for wildlife I wasn’t too surprised by the lady’s comment. Comments like that have taught me to realize that there are a lot of folks out there who are on a different page. Gardening doesn’t necessarily lead to accepting and appreciating all that Mother Nature has to offer. I know of one woman who shudders at the thought of butterflies. She hates the way they flutter!

Acknowledging other people’s perspectives and preferences has helped me modify my slide presentations that promote backyard wildlife habitats. I try to emphasize the rewards and pleasure that folks can enjoy when they provide food, cover, water and nesting sites for wildlife. I’ve learned to accept the possibilities that many of those attending have negative opinions on having certain wild critters right in their own backyards.

Several years ago lady who arrived early for my program and asked, “Does your show include pictures of snakes?”

I replied, “Yes, I have a few slides of garter snakes and blacksnakes.” She quickly fled through the nearest exit. (I’ll bet she’s torn all the *reptile* pages out of her books.)

When the slide of a hawk in a tree in our front yard appeared on the screen, a lady in the audience spoke up, “My husband made me stop feeding the birds at our house. He says it just makes it easier for the hawks to swoop down and

kill them.” (Apparently her husband was on the *songbirds only* page.)

At a retirement community I was sternly warned by the person in charge, “Don’t talk about feeding the birds. We don’t allow it here. They make such a mess.” (Reads only *neat and tidy garden* pages.)

I didn’t remove the bird slides, but I skipped past them quickly without comment. After the program two elderly residents whispered, “Here we’re not allowed to feed the birds.” From their expressions I gathered that they had once enjoyed feeding the birds back home. The three of us were on the same page.

After posting a picture on my blog of a walking stick climbing on the screen door handle, I received a one-word comment: “Yikes!!” (I thought everyone would enjoy seeing a picture of a walkingstick.)

By doing around twenty slide programs a year for over fifteen years I’ve also realized that there are folks out there who have no books at all on wildlife or habitats. I must remember to start with the basics. After I’d gone over the features in our yard that attract frogs, turtles, chipmunks, squirrels, etc. one person in the audience asked, “After you have this all set up where do you buy the animals?”

Last week an elderly lady who had heard about the critters in our backyard asked, “How do you keep them there? Is it fenced in?”

I must remember to lead off the program by telling folks “If you build it they will come. A tremendous variety of wild critters will choose to take refuge in your backyard because crop lands, industrial parks, and urban sprawl have destroyed their habitat.”

Then perhaps some will get books with detailed instructions on how to garden for wildlife. Maybe many more will join us on the same pages.

~**Sharon Wiggins** is a Certified Indiana Master Naturalist from the Greater Wabash River 2003 class. She also writes a volunteer blog for the **Lafayette Journal and Courier**. To visit her blog, go to jconline.com, and click on blogs in the left column. Look for “In the Garden”.



Ed and Cynthia Powers, Indiana Master Naturalists from Allen County, spotted this little Saw-Whet Owl in the hemlock tree in their yard on Thanksgiving morning. He looks as though he'd be thankful for a little shut-eye. Saw-Whets are the smallest owl to pass through Indiana, and are even tinier than Eastern Screech Owls. There are active banding stations in Southern Indiana, and hundreds at a time have been spotted in Yellowwood State Forest in the fall during migration. Keep your eye out for these little guys this winter.

“How Has the Indiana Master Naturalist Program Helped You?”

I am the co-founder of Trees Indiana, a youth oriented urban forestry organization. Part of our mission is to engage youth in the out-of-doors. I have been working with the local Boys and Girls Clubs and taking them on field-trips to local preserves. I took the Master Naturalist class in order to have a wider base of knowledge.

Eagle Marsh (a Little River Wetlands Project, LRWP, property) was a likely location for these outing due to its close proximity and the idea that the children would see the changes that occur over the years. I was also helping a small group of middle schoolers that wanted to get involved with environmental, service learning. I contacted LRWP about doing water testing. Betsy, the new executive director, and I liked to talk about the possibilities afforded by LRWP. One day she mentioned the Community Relations Coordinator's position being available and I applied! The fact that I had participated in the Indiana Master Naturalist class was one of the factors qualified for the position.

My taking the Indiana Master Naturalist class exposed me to many volunteer opportunities and gave me the tools to lead others on a meaningful hike. I still have a lot to learn about identification, but I can certainly show others what to look for when identifying wildflowers, birds, trees, etc. Frequently on hikes, I pull out my field guides and show youth the steps. This is great because now the students are using knowledge from the classroom (such as arrangement, margins, etc.) in a

purposeful way. Another bonus has been the trained volunteer force offered to LRWP. As I looked around the room at my graduation, 13 of the 19 classmates had volunteered at LRWP. Three of them are on my Education Committee and they were there before me!

I am very glad and grateful for taking the class and I would like to say that Kate (Kate Ferguson organizes the Allen County Indiana Master Naturalist classes) has been wonderful to us.

Nancy Bradtmiller
Little River Wetlands Project
Community Relations Coordinator

To learn more about Nancy's organizations, visit www.lrwp.org and www.treesindiana.org.



Cold Weather Survival

Could you survive if you were stranded in your car for three days on a desolate road during the winter?

Every season presents unique survival challenges to those who find themselves exposed to the elements. With winter weather in our near future this is a great time to hope for the best, but prepare for the worst.

The first (and most important) thing to prepare is your brain! In an emergency your knowledge is the most valuable thing you possess so let's determine what your priorities are in a survival situation by reviewing the Rule of 3's.

You can survive 3 seconds if you S.T.O.P.

Stop where you are. Statistics show that you have approximately a 70% greater chance of being found and surviving if you stay put. And, most people who stay in one place are rescued within 48-72 hours. So, unless your surroundings are unsafe, or you have no other choice, stay where you are. The acronym S.T.O.P. reminds us to **Sit** and take a moment to calm down, **Think** about the problem, **Observe** the situation and the resources available, and **Plan** to survive.

You can survive 3 minutes without oxygen

Every cell in your body needs three things: oxygen, sugar, and water. Of these oxygen is the most important and you can suffer brain damage in as little as 4 minutes and irreversible brain damage if you go without oxygen for more than 6 minutes. So, how can the winter pose a danger to your oxygen supply? People have died from asphyxiation due to running their automobiles to keep warm with snow plugging the exhaust pipe. This causes the odorless and colorless gas carbon monoxide (CO) to enter the passenger compartment of the vehicle. CO poisoning is a silent killer as you simply become tired, go to sleep, and don't ever wake up. Another way to create CO in your vehicle is by using a candle to keep warm (discussed in the next rule). When running your engine, always examine the exhaust pipe and ensure that it is clear of snow before starting the engine. And, when running the engine or burning a candle, keep a window slightly open so that you have air flow into the vehicle.

You can survive 3 hours without shelter and fire

While many people believe that food and water is the priority in survival it is shelter that is more important. Without shelter, especially in the winter, your body temperature can begin to drop very quickly. If you and/or your clothing become wet, you cool even more rapidly. Therefore it is vital that you seek shelter as soon as possible. In most cases this means staying in your vehicle. This offers you protection from the elements as long as your body does not make contact with metal in the car (as this pulls heat from your body quickly through

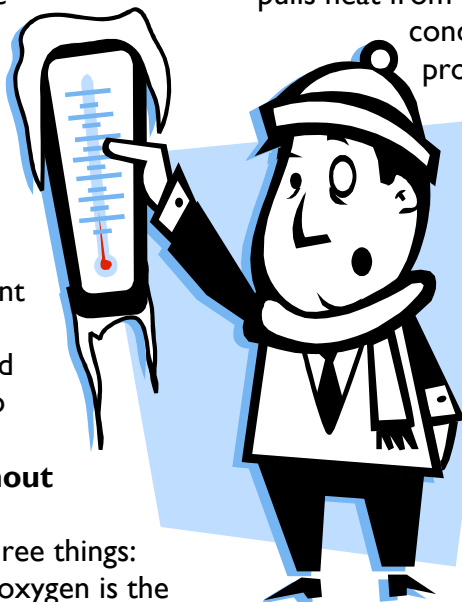
conduction). Fire creates warmth, provides a means of cooking, and serves

to bolster us psychologically. The easiest way to create fire in a vehicle is the use of a 60 hour emergency candle (discussed in car kit items). Using a candle safely in your vehicle can keep the interior temperature to around 50 degrees. You can also use the candle to melt snow for water (if present) and to heat food contained in your car kit. Another way to keep warmer in a car is to use trash bags. By getting inside two trash bags (get into one bag like a sleeping bag, then,

remembering oxygen, tear a hole in the other bag to put your head through and wear it like a poncho) you can stay about 10 degrees warmer. With the use of the candle, trash bags, and an emergency blanket you can stay relatively comfortable without using all of your gas.

(Please note that using a candle in a vehicle is very dangerous and you should do so only in an emergency and with great caution. You use it at your own risk!)

Without food, it is more difficult to go without food in cold weather because your body is using a lot of energy to keep warm through shivering. The car kit contains food items which can be consumed without cooking and those that provide internal warmth and nutrition through heating. Eat on a regular basis to maintain your energy.



(Continued on page 5...)

You can survive 3 days without water

You can survive 3 weeks without food

A few minutes and a few dollars spent now can make all the difference in an emergency situation. Enjoy the beauty of an Indiana winter, but be prepared for its potential dangers.

An Affordable Car Kit

- Cooler (Storage for items)
- 60 hour emergency candle (Warmth & light)
- Sterno (For cooking. Use outside only!!!!)
- Cup (For drinking, eating, and melting snow into water)
- Wind-up Flashlight (light)
- First Aid kit (\$.97 at the cash register)
- Ramen noodles (\$.14 each and can be eaten as is or heated)
- Dehydrated food (cup of soup, noodles, etc. Most of these are 2-serving items so store them in a zip close bag to use for left overs)
- Plastic spoons & forks
- Power bars (No preparation needed)
- Trash bags (Warmth)
- Hand sanitizer (Keep your hands clean)
- Packages of tissues (Use as toilet paper, etc.)
- Whistle (Signal for help)
- Space blanket (Light weight, cheap, and great heat retention)
- Disposable lighters (Carry in all jacket pockets to



Other items you should keep in your car in addition to this kit include:

- 5

Opportunity Spotlight:



The Backyard Conservation Program, through the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, is offering a free workshop for homeowners interested in improving environmental quality and enhancing wildlife habitat in their communities. The workshop will discuss native and invasive plants, backyard ponds, water conservation, and mulching. It will include a tour of the newly completed Cool Creek greenhouse as well. Come spend a morning learning how to improve the environment around you - starting right in your own backyard. Then, go home and transform your lawn or neighborhood common area into a more natural, low-maintenance, wildlife-friendly place. The workshop will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cool Creek Nature Center.

For more information, or to register, contact:

Shaena Smith
(317) 773-2181 ext. 107
shaena.smith@in.nacdnet.net
www.hamiltonswcd.org



Become a *Naturalist at Heart* at the Falls of the Ohio

Do you think of yourself as a naturalist at heart? If so consider joining the *Naturalist at Heart* program at the Falls of the Ohio State Park. This exciting program was created to combine education and volunteering. Interested applicants are interviewed to establish mutual goals. Volunteer interests are matched with the needs of the park and its visitors.

Now in its fourth year, this program will be introduced to new participants on January 9 and 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Those unable to attend on either date can schedule an orientation. Participants will be offered 12 free classes relating to the natural and cultural history of the Falls of the Ohio. Lessons cover geology, biology, interpretation, and more. Certification as a *Naturalist at Heart* is reached after 40 hours of lessons and 50 hours of volunteer time at the park. Last year, sixty volunteers reached level I *Naturalists at Heart*.

The following list of *Naturalist at Heart* programs are open to the public as well. They typically last three hours and are offered twice – Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Speakers are park staff or invited experts.

Geology of the Falls, February 13 & 16
Archaeology at the Falls, Feb. 27 & Mar. 1
Fossils at the Falls, Mar. 12 & 15
Birds at the Falls, Mar. 26 & 29
Spring Wildflowers, Apr. 2 & 5
Fauna in the Ohio River, Apr. 23 & 26
History of the Falls, May 7 & 10
Tree Identification, May 28 & 31

If you would like to participate in this educational opportunity at the Falls of the Ohio State Park call 812-280-9970.

***This program is very similar to the IMN program, but focuses more strongly on the local natural history. We hope to see "Naturalists at Heart" earning IMN certification in the near future.*



Amphibian Enthusiasts Needed to Help Monitor Indiana Frog and Toad Populations

Speculation of a nationwide decline in frogs and toads has prompted the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to ask Hoosiers to leap into action.

The DNR is looking for volunteers to participate in the Indiana Amphibian Monitoring Program. Volunteers are needed to listen for frogs and toads from late February through July, the breeding seasons of Indiana's amphibians. Surveys are conducted at night, usually after rainy days, or on misty nights, when frogs and toads give their breeding calls. Information collected by volunteers will help DNR biologists better understand the distribution and abundance of amphibians in Indiana.

Volunteers must attend a training workshop in order to participate in the survey. Past participants are not required to attend. Each training workshop covers Indiana's 17 frog and toad species, their calls and breeding habits, setting up surveys, and recording data. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend, and participation in the program is not required.

Registration is not required to attend a training workshop. Attendees are asked to bring pen and paper to the workshop. Participants must be 18 or older. Anyone interested in volunteering is urged to come to a workshop and sign up for a survey route.

The Indiana Amphibian Monitoring Program is part of the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP) by the U.S. Geological Survey. National routes are driving routes that take one to two hours to complete, not including drive time to the survey area. Surveys are repeated three times during the breeding season. Internet access is required to participate in the program.

Information on Indiana's Amphibian Monitoring Program is available online at:
<http://www.IN.gov/dnr/fishwild/endangered/naamp/nindex.htm>



Workshop participants should tell gate or building staff at workshop locations they are attending the Amphibian Monitoring Workshop so they are not charged entrance fees.

All training sessions will be from 2:00pm to 4:00pm EST.

1. February 9, 2008.

Sugar Ridge FWA
2310 E. SR 364
Winslow, IN 47598

2. February 10, 2008.

Falls of the Ohio SP.
201 W. Riverside Dr.
Clarksville, IN 47129

3. February 16, 2008.

Atterbury FWA
7970 S. Rowe St. PO Box 3000
Edinburgh, IN 46124

4. February 23, 2008

Fish and Wildlife NE Regional Office
1353 South Governors Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725

5. February 24, 2008.

Kankakee FWA
4320 W. Toto Rd, PO Box 77
North Judson, IN 46366



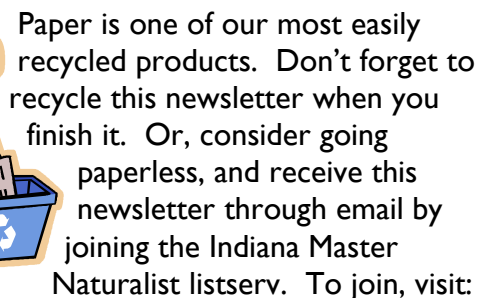
This program is funded by donations to the Endangered Wildlife Fund on the Indiana state income tax form. Look for the eagle and donate all or a portion of your state tax refund to keep frogs and toads hopping in Indiana.

Submitted by:
Zachary Walker,
State Herpetologist,
IDNR Div. of Fish & Wildlife

~Sarah R. Schenk
317-234-5288 or SSchenk@dnr.in.gov

We now number **over 300** certified Indiana Master Naturalists! Congratulations to **Roger Rose**, our 300th Indiana Master Naturalist.

Approximately 1000 Hoosiers (and a few out-of-staters) have participated in IMN classes. We have a certification rate of roughly 35%.



<http://lists.in.gov/mailman/listinfo/imn>

A blue icon of a crumpled piece of fabric or a garment, possibly a shirt or a piece of cloth, with black outlines. It is set against a white background.

Do you wear your pin and patch with pride? Could you use a new tote bag for hauling your volunteer, master naturalist, or just plain other stuff? The Elkhart County IMN program is offering their extra IMN tote bags at \$7 each, shipping included. They are a handsome royal blue, trimmed in black, with the IMN logo in white. They have nice side pockets, a flat bottom, and a wide, adjustable shoulder strap. These are also a nice "thank you" item for IMN hosts to give their speakers. If you are interested, please email Nancy at nancy.brown@in.nacdnet.net or Jenny at jenny.brosius@in.nacdnet.net, or call 574-533-3630 ext. 3.

Sarah R. Schenk, Stewardship Section Assistant
IDNR Div. of State Parks and Reservoirs
402 W. Washington, Room W298
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-234-5288 Email: SSchenk@dnr.in.gov



Volunteers Needed

There are needs for volunteers across Indiana.
Here are a few opportunities perfect for Indiana Master Naturalists.

The Upper Wabash Interpretive Services

seeks volunteers to assist with school programming. Volunteers will follow an education program to prepare them for working directly with students and shadow interpreters before moving to somewhat independent portions of our school group programming. The schedule includes mostly morning school group sessions on various days during the work week. We also continue to have openings for interpretive center hosts, animal care, landscape workers, and woodworkers. Some opportunities are also available for young volunteers, those interested in display design, and speakers on natural and cultural history topics. Please call 260-468-2127 and ask for Teresa Rody, volunteer coordinator, or Marvin McNew, Upper Wabash Interpretive Services Director.

Brown County State Park's

Interpretive Garden needs volunteers this fall, 2007 to deadhead flowers that bloomed earlier this summer. Seeds are collected for give-away at various plant programs. Volunteers can call the Nature Center (812) 988-5240 to arrange for a time and date to work. Master naturalist volunteer service time can be worked off at Brown County State Park on the interpretive trails at the Nature Center, Ogle Hollow Nature Preserve and at the Abe Martin Lodge. Please call the Nature Center to arrange a work time and date.

Indiana Dunes State Park needs volunteers to help with staffing the Nature Center and caring for educational animals. To find out how you can help, contact Brad Bumgardner at the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.

Turkey Run State Park Nature Center has several master naturalist service projects available over the winter:

Project 1) Research honeybees and develop interpretive displays to be placed near the honey bee observation hive in the nature center. This project

includes creative writing, and the use of computer and dry mount press. And if the volunteer is interested, the project can culminate in the spring with a few informal honeybee talks around the exhibit with the visitors. **Project 2)** Rehabilitate all live snake and turtle tanks. Project includes cleaning all tanks and exhibit area, setting up animal-specific habitats inside glass aquaria, developing simple interpretive displays for exhibit area, and inventorying/reorganizing herptile supply closet. This project can also end with informal snake and/or turtle talks for the visitors, although this part is not required. This is a great job for someone with an interest in reptiles, as it includes handling them and



learning about several species of snakes and turtles, as well as applying knowledge gained during master naturalist workshops. **Project 3)** Naturalist assistant. A job for a "people person," duties include staffing an information desk, answering visitor questions on the phone and in person, helping with administrative duties, litter pick-up on hiking trails, maintenance of wildlife observation area and herptile

display, and helping to write a program brochure for school group presentations. Position can also include presenting programs, if there's an interest. No experience necessary. The job provides an excellent way to share the information learned during the master naturalist workshops, as well as a hands-on way to learn even more about native birds, bees, snakes, mammals, trees and herbaceous plants! If you are interested in any of these projects, please contact Barbara Cummings at 765-597-2654.

Do you know any natural resource agencies (parks, nature preserves, land trusts, etc) who might like to advertise volunteer opportunities in this newsletter? If so, please have them send contact information and a few lines about their opportunities to Sarah Schenk, at SSchenk@dnr.in.gov.



The Armchair Naturalist

There's nothing quite like curling up next to a warm fire on cold day, and reading. But after finding out how critters survive the winter, you may want to head out of your den!

Great Reads-

Winter World by Berndt Heinrich

If you can get past the first chapter (you may even skip it), you'll thoroughly enjoy this detailed work of non-fiction. For the nature geek, Heinrich offers fascinating insights into how individual species spend their winter months. Discover the architecture of a squirrel nest, the heartbeats of small mammals, insects that have antifreeze in their bodies, and much more. Heinrich has illustrated this book himself with beautiful pencil sketches that will make you draw your blanket a little closer to your chin. Full of surprises, this is one of my favorite books on natural history.



Fun Links-

<http://library.fws.gov/ejournals.htm>

What could be better than free access to magazines, journals, and newsletters, without ever leaving your home? This website provides links to nearly 100 journals, newsletters, and more. Sure, some may be archival editions, but with this website, you'll never run out of reading material. From "The All-Bird Bulletin" to "World Conservation", there is a little something for every type of nature lover. This collection is offered through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center. Some of these links will let you search archives for specific topics, while others will let you just plain browse various editions.



Get Out of That Armchair!

Wolf Park

Located not too far from Purdue University, this research center houses several wolf packs that are observed for behavioral sciences. You can go for a "howl with the wolves", or watch the main wolf pack test the resident bison herd (much better than watching it on National Geographic— but don't worry about bringing the kids, the herd is quite healthy, and the wolves usually have roadkill deer on their dinner menu). Special seminars are periodically offered, as well as a variety of special events. Wolf Park is also home to several other species of canids. Open year round, winter is a particularly picturesque time to visit. For more information, visit www.wolfpark.org, or call 765-567-2265. 4012 East 800 North Battle Ground, IN 47920



Indiana Master Naturalist Program
Division of State Parks and Reservoirs
402 W. Washington Room W298
Indianapolis, IN 46204

www.indianamasternaturalist.org

The mission of the Indiana Master Naturalist program is to bring together natural resource professionals with adult learners to foster an understanding of Indiana's plants, water, soils and wildlife, and to promote volunteer service in local communities.